

**Lake Michigan Fisheries Team  
August 9, 2000 – Sheboygan**

**Notes**

(prepared by Bill Horns, August 10, 2000)

**Present:** Bill Horns, Steve Hewett, Steve Hogler, Justine Hasz, Pradeep Hirethota, Jeff Bode, Brad Eggold, Sue Marcquenski, Terry Lychwick, Dick Rebicek, Al Kaas, Gus Ernst, Paul Peeters, Ron Fassbender, Doug Rossberg, Randy Link

**Next meeting:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, November 9, Deland Center, Sheboygan.

This is a summary of decisions, recommendations, and planned actions, and is not intended as a review of all topics discussed or reviewed at the meeting.

- 1) Production planning for 2001-2002. The LMFT reviewed Lake Michigan production plans for 2001-2002 and gave the following additional guidance to Al Kaas:
  - Brown trout – The LMFT requests the following (which matches 2000-2001 production), unless more Wild Rose strain brown trout can be produced in place of some of the St. Croix strain.

		fall fgling - 2001	yearlings - 2002
St. Croix	SER	74,500	45,000
	NER	131,000	105,000
Wild Rose	SER	201,700	53,010
	NER	274,400	45,000
Seeforellen	SER	0	124,690
	NER	0	183,500
Totals	SER	276,200	222,700
	NER	405,400	333,500

- Brook trout – No fingerlings are requested. 50,000 yearlings are requested, with Nipigons preferred to domestics.
  - Otherwise, the LMFT requests no changes to the 2001-2002 production plan outlined in the attachment to the meeting agenda.
- 2) Lake Michigan Partnership Team (re-named Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum). Several minor points related to the Lake Michigan Partnership Team were addressed. They are reflected in the attached amended LMFF charter.
    - a) Name. The LMPT will be renamed the Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum (LMFF).
    - b) Department participation. Department staff will not be formal members of the LMFF. Department staff will attend and participate in LMFF meetings as needed. Department staff attendance at LMFF meetings will be guided by LMFF interests and by the interests of individual staff and supervisors, with consideration given to regional balance. The LMFF will be asked to advise the Department regarding desired Department participation in the meetings.

- c) Membership. Initial membership in the LMFF will be as shown in the following list:

	name	term <sup>1</sup>	affiliation
	Mark Maricque	indefinite	LM Commercial Fishing Board
	Dennis Hickey	indefinite	Wisconsin Commercial Fisheries
	Mel Both	indefinite	WF/GLSFC
	Ed Rewolinski	indefinite	Great Lakes Study Committee
	Mark Holey	indefinite	Green Bay FRO, USFWS
	John Janssen	indefinite	University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
	Phil Moy	indefinite	UW Sea Grant
	Jim Folda <sup>2</sup>	two years	at large
	Roger Stack	three years	at large
	Jerry Viste	four years	at large
	Daniel Anderson	two years	at large
	Mike LeClair	three years	at large
	Charlie Henriksen	four years	at large
	Bill Willis	two years	at large
	Mike Collins	three years	at large
	John Reinke	four years	at large
	Lee Haasch	two years	at large

- d) LMFT facilitation. I will facilitate LMFF meetings.
- e) Frequency of meetings will be determined by the LMFF.
- f) An attachment to the LMFF charter will be drafted describing in greater detail the role and operational rules of the LMFF. This will be presented to the LMFF for review and comment when the group is convened.
- 3) Updating the Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan. The LMFT approved the attached revised Statement of Scope and Process, which includes an amended timetable, inclusion of regional directors among those to be asked to nominate Internal partners, and replacement of the name “Lake Michigan partnership Team” with “Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum.”
- 4) Updating the LMFT Charge. The attached revised LMFT Charge was approved. The changes from the original charge include a number of staffing changes. Also, Matt Coffaro is added to the Core Team and the Lee Meyer’s position is listed as NER fisheries expert. Finally a change in wording in the section headed “Work Activities/Tasks” reflects a role for the LMFT in identifying training needs for all Lake Michigan fisheries staff, not just the biologists.
- 5) Team Nearshore. Steve Hogler will draft a charge for a new Team Nearshore that will consider management issues related to nearshore rainbow trout (excluding the three steelhead strains), brown trout, and brook trout. The draft charge can be considered, amended, and approved by the LMFT via e-mail.
- 6) Review of LMIFMP 1995-2001. Individuals took the following assignments for reviewing specific objectives from the outgoing Plan.

<sup>1</sup> nominees will serve for one, two, or three year terms, except for the first round of nominees

<sup>2</sup> or alternate from Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Goal	Reviewer
I.A. Protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for game and non-game species	Terry Lychwick, et al.
I.B. Protect and restore native species	Terry Lychwick, et al.
I.C. Develop and evaluate strategies that deal with non-indigenous species	Terry Lychwick, et al.
I.D. Employ the best available information, methods, and technologies . . .	Bill Horns
II.A. Develop a salmon and trout species mix within ecosystem capacity which supports sport harvests within target ranges.	Brad Eggold
II.B. Maintain a lake trout harvest consistent with lake-wide management objectives	Pat McKee
II.C. Identify and correct facility problems within the propagation system.	Randy Link, Al Kaas, and Sue Marcquenski
II.D. Provide nearshore fishing opportunities	Steve Hogler
II.E. Increase public awareness of the sport fishery resources of Lake Michigan	Bill Horns
II.F. Develop angling regulations that discourage unethical practices	Tom Hansen
III.A. Sustain populations of commercial species which support harvests within target ranges.	Paul Peeters, et al.
III.B. Seek to adequately fund management of the commercial fishery through a variety of sources	Bill Horns
III.C. Minimize or eliminate mortality of non-target species	Paul Peeters, et al.
III.D. Improve compliance with catch reporting requirement and develop more efficient procedures for catch reporting and quota transfers	Tom Hansen and Al Blizel
III.E. Increase public awareness of the positive aspects and benefits of the Lake Michigan commercial fishing industry	Bill Horns
III.F. Enhance the viability and stability of the commercial fishing industry.	Bill Horns

The reviews are due to me by e-mail on October 15. The reviews should follow the format used last time. Each will have four sections (rationale, overview of progress, assessment of tactics, issues of concern). Reviews must be prepared in MS Word following the bold facing and indenting conventions used last time. Font must be Times New Roman 12 pt. Figures and graphs must be imbedded in the MS Word document. I agreed to circulate electronic copies of the outgoing plan and the last review document.

- 7) The LMFT agreed in principle to setting a minimum depth for float lines of gill nets. The Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Commercial Fishing Boards will be asked to

suggest a minimum depth that both assures boater safety and is compatible with current commercial fishing practices in Wisconsin waters.

- 8) Terry Lychwick and Team Musky will draft an advisory question regarding the establishment of a 50" minimum for Great Lakes spotted musky in Green Bay for the 2001 spring meetings of the Conservation Congress.

## Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum

	<b>name</b>	<b>term<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>affiliation</b>
Mark	Maricque	indefinite	Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board
Dennis	Hickey	indefinite	Wisconsin Commercial Fisheries
Mel	Both	indefinite	WF/GLSFC
Ed	Rewolinski	indefinite	Great Lakes Study Committee
Mark	Holey	indefinite	Green Bay Fisheries Resources Office, USFWS
John	Janssen	indefinite	University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Phil	Moy	indefinite	UW Sea Grant
Jim	Folda <sup>4</sup>	two	at large
Roger	Stack	three	at large
Jerry	Viste	four	at large
Daniel	Anderson	two	at large
Mike	LeClair	three	at large
Charlie	Henriksen	four	at large
Bill	Willis	two	at large
Mike	Collins	three	at large
John	Reinke	four	at large
Lee	Haasch	two	at large

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<sup>3</sup> nominees will serve for one, two, or three year terms, except for the first round of nominees

<sup>4</sup> or alternate from Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

**Lake Michigan Partnership Team Fisheries Forum**  
(as amended August, 2000)

Purpose – The Lake Michigan ~~Partnership Team~~ Fisheries Forum will address issues related to Lake Michigan fisheries. It will advise the Lake Michigan Fisheries Team, facilitate information exchange between the Department and interested groups and individuals, provide a forum for discussion of issues of concern, develop consensus among diverse interests on matters of common concern, and develop public advocacy for policies of general interest.

Membership – The ~~Partnership Team~~ Fisheries Forum has ~~fifteen~~ seventeen voting members (in addition to ~~three~~ four non-voting members representing the Lake Michigan Fisheries Team). Seven members are designated by specific organizations (one each by the Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board, the Great Lakes Study Committee of the Conservation Congress, Wisconsin Commercial Fisheries, the Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs, the USFWS Fisheries Resource Office in Green Bay, UW- Sea Grant, and the UW-M Water Institute). ~~Eight~~ Ten are selected by the Lake Michigan Fisheries Team to achieve a broad-based group that can work constructively with the Department.

Term of Service – Members appointed by outside organizations serve at the pleasure of those organizations. Appointing organizations will be encouraged to periodically change their representation. Members appointed by the LMFT serve staggered three-year terms, and may be re-appointed. Members may be represented by alternates of their choice, but members will be replaced if they fail to attend two consecutive ~~quarterly~~ meetings without sending an alternate.

Authority – The ~~Partnership Team~~ Fisheries Forum is advisory to the Lake Michigan Fisheries Team.

Meetings – ~~Semi-annual meetings~~ Meetings will be facilitated by the LMFT and. ~~Additional meetings may be held at the pleasure of the Partnership Team Fisheries Forum.~~ Meetings will be publicly noticed and will be open to the public, although the ~~Partnership Team Fisheries Forum~~ may limit participation in discussions and only ~~Partnership Team Fisheries Forum~~ members may vote on policy recommendations. Meetings will be facilitated by Department staff and chaired by a person chosen by the LMPT. A quorum of 10 will be required to conduct business.

Department support - The Department will provide meeting space, facilitate meetings, and provide limited administrative support (photocopying, meeting arrangements, reimbursement for travel costs).

## Statement of Scope and Process for the Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, 2001-2011

(as amended August, 2000)

### SCOPE

The *Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan – 2001-2011* (LMIFMP) will define management and policy direction pertaining to sport and commercial fisheries in Lake Michigan for the coming decade. It succeeds the *Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan – 1995-2001*. The LMIFMP will serve the Goals of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: I. Making People Our Strength, II. Sustaining Ecosystems, III. Protecting Public Health and Safety, and IV. Providing Outdoor Recreation. Specific objectives, problems, and tactics will be developed under the following three broad Lake Michigan fishery goals carried forward from the expiring plan: 1) A diverse, balanced, and healthy ecosystem. 2) A diverse multi-species sport fishery within the productive capacity of the lake. 3) A stable commercial fishery within the productive capacity of the lake.

The planning effort will be carried forward by the Lake Michigan Fisheries Team. Integration of the LMIFMP with other DNR programs and plans will be achieved by the involvement from the outset of all relevant Department programs. Integration of the revised LMIFMP with the thinking and planning of external agencies will be achieved by the involvement of representatives of those agencies. Public participation will involve the active participation of the Lake Michigan ~~Partnership Team~~ Fisheries Forum, as well as all other members of the interested public.

### PROCESS

The process of plan development is summarized by specification of who will be involved and when specified steps in the process will occur.

#### Participants in the planning process

**Lake Michigan Fisheries Team.** The LMFT will conduct the entire planning effort. The LMFT functions under the oversight of a **Guidance Team** consisting of Water Leaders for the Northeast and Southeast Regions and the Director of the Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection.

**Lake Michigan ~~Partnership Team~~ Fisheries Forum.** The Lake Michigan ~~Partnership Team~~ (LMPT) Fisheries Forum (LMFF) will be involved in all aspects of the planning process.

**Policy Support Group.** This will include Region Directors from NER and SER and the Administrator of the Division of Water. This group will endorse the planning process and ratify the completed document, but need not play any other active role, except as requested by the LMFT or its Guidance Team.

**Internal Partners.** Other DNR programs will be asked to help. Directors of relevant bureaus and regions of the DNR will be asked to send representatives to an early scoping meeting (June-July) and to provide comments on drafts of the new Plan. This participation will insure that the Plan is appropriately integrated with other DNR programs and plans.

**External Partners.** External partners (including but not necessarily limited to EPA, GLFC, USFWS, USGS, Michigan DNR, Indiana DNR, Illinois DNR, and COTFMA) will be asked to comment on drafts of the new Plan. This will insure that the planning process takes appropriate consideration of external concerns as we focus on our fisheries management issues.

**Public.** The public at large will be involved through the Lake Michigan Partnership team and through public listening sessions at key stages in the process.

## **Planning Timetable**

**February, 2000** – A statement of scope and process is drafted by the LMFT and approved by the Policy Support Group.

**~~June 1, 2000~~ September 1, 2000** – ~~Partnership Team~~ Fisheries Forum formed.

**~~June-July 2000~~ September-October, 2000** -- The ~~LMPT~~ LMFF and the internal partners meet (separately) to list issues, questions, and concerns for consideration in the planning process. The LMFT compiles those into a single Issues List.

**~~Sept. 2000~~ November, 2000** -- A written review of the LMIFMP for 1995-2001 is completed and published as an Administrative Report. Three public meetings are held at which the planning process is described. The LMIFMP review document and the Issues List are presented. Attendees are asked to comment orally or in writing.

**October, 2000 December, 2000** -- The LMFT prepares a summary of the public comments. The ~~LMPT~~ LMFF meets to review the public comments and develop a recommendation to the LMFT regarding the Issues List. The LMFT revises the Issues List as appropriate and develops a consolidated list of issue categories.

**~~November-January, 2000~~ January-March, 2001** -- Separate meetings are held for the identified issue categories. These meetings involve the LMFT, the ~~LMPT~~ LMFF, and other internal and external partners as needed. The purpose of these meetings is to develop lists of possible objectives (with problems and tactics) that address items on the Issues List.

**~~February, 2001~~ April, 2001** -- The ~~LMPT~~ LMFF meets to review the list of possible objectives and develop a recommendation for the LMFT regarding the objectives that are most important and the tactics that should be pursued.

**~~March-May, 2001~~ May-June, 2001** -- The LMFT meets to draft the LMIFMP (subject to approval by the LMFT's Guidance Team). Draft LMIFMP presented to NRB as an information item.

**~~May, 2001~~ July, 2001** -- Two public meetings to receive public comment on the draft LMIFMP.

**~~June, 2001~~ August, 2001** -- The ~~LMPT~~ LMFF meets to review public comments and develop a recommendation for the LMFT regarding changes to the draft plan.

**~~July, 2001~~ September, 2001** -- The LMFT completes a final draft of the Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for 2001-2011 is completed (subject to approval by the Guidance Team) and sent to the Policy Support Group and Secretary for approval. Approved plan presented to NRB.



## **LAKE MICHIGAN FISHERIES TEAM**

### **TEAM CHARGE**

(as amended August, 2000)

### **TEAM NAME**

Lake Michigan Fisheries Team (LMFT)

### **TEAM SPONSOR**

Chief, Fisheries Policy and Operations Section (Steve Hewett)

### **GUIDANCE TEAM**

- Director, Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection (Mike Staggs)
- Northeast Region Water Leader (Charlie Verhoeven)
- Southeast Region Water Leader (Chip Krohn)

### **TEAM MEMBERS**

Team leader: Great Lakes Fisheries Specialist, FH Bureau (Bill Horns)

#### Policy Committee:

- Great Lakes Fisheries Specialist, FH Bureau (Bill Horns)
- ~~NER Lake Michigan fisheries coordinator~~ Fisheries Expert (Lee Meyers)
- SER Lake Michigan Fisheries Supervisor (Brad Eggold)

#### Core Team Members:

- Great Lakes Fisheries Specialist, FH Bureau (Bill Horns)
- ~~NER Lake Michigan fisheries coordinator~~ Fisheries Expert (Lee Meyers)
- Lakeshore Basin Water Sub-team Leader (Mike Toney)
- NER fisheries biologists with Lake Michigan fisheries responsibilities (Justine Hasz, Terry Lychwick, Paul Peeters, Steve Hogler)
- SER Lake Michigan Fisheries Supervisor (Brad Eggold)
- SER Lake Michigan Fisheries Unit biologists (Pradeep Hirethota, vacancy)
- NER Regional Operations Enforcement Team leader (Tom Hansen)
- SER law enforcement representative (Kevin Mickelberg)
- SER Fisheries Expert (Matt Coffaro)

#### Non-Core Team Members:

- Lake Michigan GMU Water Leaders (Doug Rossberg, George Boronow, Ron Fassbender, Vic Pappas, Sharon Gayan, Mike Luba)
- NE and SE Regional Operations Supervisors (Mark Opgenorth, Dick Rebicek)

- SER Fisheries Expert (Matt Coffaro)
- FH Fish Health Specialist (Sue Marcquenski)
- FH Aquatic Toxicologist (Candy Schrank)
- FH Fish Propagation Coordinator (Al Kaas)
- Great Lakes Team Leader (Chuck Ledin)
- Lake Superior GMU representative (Mike Keniry)

Program Attorney:

- Pete Flaherty

**TEAM PURPOSE** Implement the Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan and coordinate the Lake Michigan Fisheries Program. This includes budget and work plan preparation, information management, and policy development. In this work the Team will follow an ecosystem approach that attempts to fully integrate fisheries management activities with all related Department functions. The Lake Michigan Fisheries Team will work with the standing Great Lakes Team to assure Department-wide consistency and to coordinate Lake Michigan Fisheries work with other Department activities on the Great Lakes.

**TEAM AUTHORITY**

Decision-making

1. The team is delegated the authority to make and implement decisions that are in the realm of internal operating procedures. These are procedures and guidance that address the internal management of the Lake Michigan fisheries program within the bounds of the program's adopted workplan and budget and which do not affect private rights and interests or affect the activities of non-team members.

Policy recommendations

1. The team is responsible for identifying policy issues and submitting policy recommendations to the Guidance Team.
2. The team is responsible for identifying administrative and budgetary program needs and submitting recommendations to the Guidance Team.

Activities that are outside of team authority

1. The team is not delegated the authority to make decisions concerning external administrative matters and personnel matters. This includes:
  - a. Personnel issues, e.g., participation in individual performance evaluations of team members, discipline, pay, grievances, and leave. However, although the standing team leader is non-supervisory, that position should

contribute to the technical performance review of the SER Lake Michigan Fisheries Supervisor, the NER Lake Michigan fisheries coordinator, and regional fisheries biologists working on Lake Michigan.

- b. Sign off or approval of legal documents, unless delegated by the Guidance Team.
- c. Decisions on how the regions will budget and spend program funds, beyond those delegated by the Guidance Team.
- d. Final decisions on work assignments for team members. The ultimate authority to assign program work lies with the team members' supervisors.
- e. If a work performance/personnel related issue arises, the team or team leader will refer the matter to the Team Sponsor for further action. The Team Sponsor will refer the issue to the employee's supervisor for further discussion.

## **INTERNAL TEAM OPERATING PROCEDURES**

### Policy recommendations

For significant issues, including sport and commercial rule development, the team will observe the following procedural steps before announcing decisions or advancing recommendations to the Guidance Team: 1) The issue will be discussed at two or more team meetings. 2) Any recommendation developed at one team meeting will be described in the meeting notes and ratified at a subsequent meeting before being moved forward. 3) If the core team cannot reach consensus, the question will be turned over to the Policy Committee. 4) Recommendations of the core team, whether by consensus, or by agreement of the Policy Committee, will be forwarded to the Director of Fisheries through the Regional Water Leaders. 5) Any Lake Michigan sport fishing rules to be advanced by the LMFT for consideration at Conservation Congress spring hearings must be endorsed by the LMFT by May of the preceding year.

When policy recommendations must be made on short notice, the three-member Policy Committee may, by simple majority, advance recommendations to the Guidance Team without attempting to achieve consensus of the LMFT core team, or without a second review and ratification by of an initial recommendation by the LMFT. The entire LMFT will be immediately informed of any recommendations made by the Policy Committee.

Non-core team members are expected to 1) participate fully in team discussions of issues that concern them and 2) attend meetings as their interest dictates.

### Meeting frequency, location, etc

Meetings will be held as needed at various locations along the Lake Michigan and Green Bay shoreline. Agendas will be provided in advance to all team members, sponsor and guidance team members, and other interested individuals via e-mail, and made available on the department's central computer. Meeting notes will be circulated within approximately one week following each meeting.

### Sub-groups

The LMFT may form sub-groups to effectively and efficiently address specific issues. These sub-groups may include non-team members.

## **WORK ACTIVITIES/TASKS**

Work activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

### Strategic lake-wide fisheries planning

1. Develop, evaluate, and update the Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.
2. Through the Lake Michigan Committee, recommend fish community objectives for Lake Michigan.

### Work planning and budgeting

3. Establish work plan guidance and set priorities for the Lake Michigan fisheries program activities, reflecting the Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, Secretary's Objectives, Water Division and Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection work planning guidance and priorities.
4. Review and rank individual project proposals for selection and funding.
5. Establish procedures and performance measures for tracking, evaluating, and improving accomplishment of work plans.
6. Identify training needs for Lake Michigan fisheries ~~biologists~~ staff.
7. Recommend budget allocations to the Director of the Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection, including use of revenues from the sale of Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamps.

### Policy development

8. Develop proposals for needed changes in administrative codes and state statutes regarding Lake Michigan fisheries.
9. Develop Lake Michigan fisheries administrative needs and budget initiatives.

### Coordination

10. Maintain effective communication with the statewide propagation program and regional fisheries operations to assure that the egg collection, rearing, and stocking needs of the Lake Michigan fisheries program are met.
11. Maintain effective coordination of the Lake Michigan fisheries program with the Law Enforcement program.

12. Coordinate and integrate Lake Michigan fisheries work activities with other programs in the Department.
13. Coordinate and integrate Lake Michigan fisheries work activities with other states, tribes, federal agencies, universities, Sea Grant, the Conservation Congress, the Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board, the general public, and others with interests related to Lake Michigan fisheries.

Public Input

14. Develop and utilize mechanisms for receiving, considering, and responding to public input regarding the Lake Michigan Fisheries Program.